

**REMARKS**

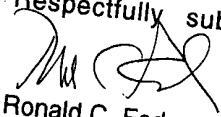
Claims 204-224 and 227-258 were presented in earlier filed preliminary amendments and supplemental amendments prior to examination of this application. In this, their Third Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 259-262, two of which (259 and 260) are directed to the Sig modified nucleotide, and the other two (261 and 262) being directed to the oligo- or polynucleotide.

No new matter is believed to have been inserted by the presentation of claims 259-262. Instead, the claims herein are clearly felt to embrace subject matter which Applicants are duly entitled to claim, commensurate with their broad and complete disclosure.

The fee for new claims 259-262 is \$88.00 [based on 4 additional dependent claims x \$22]. The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$88.00 to Deposit Account 05-1135. If there are any other fee due in connection with this Third Preliminary Amendment, authorization is also hereby given to charge the amount of any such other fee to Deposit Account No. 05-1135, or to credit any overpayment thereto.

Applicants' request for early and favorable action on this application is earnestly renewed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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